



Wildflower Guild

Junior Cotillions

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**Wildflower Guild  
Junior Cotillion  
Parent Information  
2021-2022**



# Wildflower Guild

## Junior Cotillions

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### Wildflower Guild Junior Cotillion Contacts

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### **Cultural Activities Center (CAC)**

3011 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Temple, TX 76501

254-773-9926

[www.cacarts.org](http://www.cacarts.org)

### **Central Texas Orchestral Society (CTOS)**

Please visit [www.ctosarts.org](http://www.ctosarts.org) for upcoming concert events.

### Find us on Facebook!

Temple - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TempleJuniorCotillion>

Belton - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/beltonjuniorcotillion>

Wildflower Guild Junior Cotillion - <https://www.facebook.com/Wildflower-Guild-Junior-Cotillion-111902430673109>



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### Junior Cotillion History

The Junior Cotillion was first established in the fall of 1992 in the Temple-Belton area. A group of parents saw a need to keep students and friends together after fifth grade to help the transition to middle school. The parents saw it to foster the camaraderie of old and new friends.

The Junior Cotillion is a non-profit organization that offers social and cultural opportunities to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, with the goal of enhancing the students' manners and social skills, offering instruction in various dance techniques, and providing opportunities to attend performances at the Cultural Activities Center. The Junior Cotillion also prepares students to enjoy involvement in the Wildflower Guild Belle and Escort program, which is offered to high-school students, ninth through eleventh grades.

The Junior Cotillion operates under the direction of Wildflower Guild, and both the Junior Cotillion and the Guild function together to support the Central Texas Orchestral Society, which is the classical music arm of the Cultural Activities Center. Membership dues to the Junior Cotillion cover costs for the dances and performances, a \$25 membership fee to belong to the Wildflower Guild, and a \$25 donation to the Central Texas Orchestral Society.

The Junior Cotillion is set up by a steering committee of volunteer parents who arrange dates, times, places, dance instructors, chaperones, and photography for each dance, and then decorate and chaperone for each grade-level dance. All members of the Junior Cotillion are invited to three dances for each grade level. Two of the dances are usually themed and one is a more formal dance for sixth and seventh graders. The eighth graders enjoy a formal dinner-dance, which is the highlight of the Junior Cotillion experience. Etiquette instruction is offered for all members on separate dates.

Due to the popularity of the Junior Cotillion program, a desire to expand to accommodate more students grew into a reality. In 2001 the Junior Cotillion was divided into two groups, one in Temple and one in Belton. Both the Temple Junior Cotillion and Belton Junior Cotillion have continued to thrive under the direction of Wildflower Guild as an extension of the Central Texas Orchestral Society in support of the Cultural Activities Center.



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### Dress Code Policy

The Junior Cotillions desire that all members feel at ease and confident in their attire while dancing. All dances are dress-up occasions where careful grooming and dress is required. A dress code is enforced in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for all members by limiting distractions and avoiding clothing mishaps to protect your child's safety and reputation.

#### GIRLS

- Sleeveless tops and dresses are allowed if undergarments are completely covered and necklines are appropriate, not plunging.
- Halter-tops with straps are allowed if it is not backless.
- Hemlines of shorts and skirts must be finger-tip length or longer.
- Shoes should be safe and comfortable; heels are strongly discouraged.
- No spaghetti straps.
- **NO STRAPLESS** dresses or tops at all (even when a sweater is worn).
- Midriffs may NOT be exposed.
- No floor length dresses are allowed for any dances.

#### BOYS

- Dress slacks and a tie for the semi-formal dance.
- All pants shall be worn at the waist with NO sagging.

#### EXCEPTIONS

- When theme appropriate, BOYS and GIRLS may wear: Hats, caps, bandanas, and headbands, sunglasses, hair color/streaking.
- Any other exceptions to the dress code will be clearly indicated on the invitation for that event.

These guidelines are designed to be modest for children but not to make shopping difficult for you. Please follow them so that we do not have to ask your child to leave the dance until appropriately dressed. Contact your grade level chairmen if you have any questions.



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### RSVP Policy

New to this season, members will receive a digital invitation for the first two events. Members will receive a traditional invitation for the last dance of the season.

All Members (not the parent) are expected to RSVP by the date listed on the invitation, **whether they will be attending the dance**. Members are expected to call with an affirmative response or decline invitation for the traditional invitation.

The RSVP Policy serves two purposes: Responding to an invitation is an important skill and courtesy the Junior Cotillion desires to instill in its Members. It is necessary to have even numbers of boys and girls at each dance. It is important that our Dance Chairmen and Parent Volunteers have time to plan properly to ensure equal numbers at each dance. If a member fails to RSVP or is a no-show (did not attend the dance and failed to notify the chairman in advance), it creates an inconvenience for other members.

### Behavior Expectations

Membership in the Junior Cotillion is a privilege; thus, members are expected to maintain respectable social conduct at all Cotillion functions as well as at school and in the community.

Minor Infractions include rolling of eyes, making ugly faces, not taking hand when offered, not following directions or dance etiquette, running around at break, damaging decorations, changing partners once on the dance floor, etc. Major Infractions include: Verbally putting someone down, making fun of others, inappropriate touching, telling someone "no" on a girl/boy choice, playing a trick on someone, demolishing decorations, continuation of a minor infraction after numerous corrections by volunteers, etc.

Habitual misconduct can result in review by the Junior Cotillion Board Members and eventually into termination of membership.

Members are not permitted to use cameras during the dance. Parents and members may take pictures before and after the dance. A photographer will take pictures during the dance and provide access for members online. Videos are not allowed to protect the privacy of our members. Parents--please do NOT post videos.



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### Dance Etiquette

Dance etiquette is a set of guidelines that help us navigate the social dimensions of dancing.

BOYS will “ask for a dance.” When asking for a dance, it is easiest to stay with traditional phrases: “May I have this dance?” ... “Would you like to dance?” ... “Care to dance?” Make eye contact when asking for a dance. When your partner says yes, smile, offer your arm, and escort her onto the dance floor and into dance position.

GIRLS will “accept the dance.” When a guy asks you to dance, your response should be “Yes” ... “Thank You” ... or “I'd love to!” It is never acceptable to say “No” at the Junior Cotillion dances. You should not roll your eyes, make goofy faces, or give a big sigh either. Smile and make eye contact with your partner. Try to project a warm and positive image while dancing, even if do not know your partner.

The dance coordinator and volunteer parents on the dance floor will help facilitate all parts of the dance. Everybody is here to learn, and we will all make mistakes...even the adults! You might dance with some kids that are having a more difficult time learning the dance than you. If so, help them and be positive. The dance coordinator will guide you through the dances telling you what steps to take. Color Group parents will be on the dance floor helping you with dance steps and correcting inappropriate behavior.

After the song ... When a song comes to an end, the BOY gives his arm to the GIRL and takes her back to her color group. Always say thank you to your partner. When thanked, do not reply, “You are welcome.” The proper response to “Thank you.” is “Thank you.” If you enjoyed the dance, let your partner know. Compliment your partner on her/his dancing. Be generous, even if he/she is not the greatest of dancers.